

sent out in August as an unofficial investigator and mediator, reached the same conclusion. In his report, dated September 21, he approved the fourth Czech plan, which ran on cantonal lines, but believed that it had no chance of acceptance, for decisions were now made at Berlin and Henlein had at length thrown off the mask. Still more significant was a sentence in the *Times* leader of September 7 admitting that the cession of the fringe of alien populations might be necessary. A Foreign Office statement the same evening that this was not the policy of the Government failed to remove the impression that the *Times* had been inspired, and that England would not fight for the existing frontiers in Central Europe.

The Prime Minister's dramatic flight to Berchtesgaden revealed his passionate devotion to peace, but played straight into Hitler's unscrupulous hands. His determination to secure the Sudeten districts, even at the cost of a world war, was a profound shock to the visitor. Impressed by the factor of racial unity and convinced that there was no other way to keep the peace, he decided to recommend this solution to his colleagues and the Czechs, subject to it being carried through without war. At a second meeting at Godesberg on the Rhine a week later, after consulting the French Government, he had a further shock, for more drastic demands were presented which he undertook to forward to Prague, though not to recommend. When they were unhesitatingly rejected and mobilization was ordered by the Czechoslovakia Government war was within sight, for Hitler announced that the occupation would take place on October 1. Unwearying in his efforts for peace, Chamberlain sent urgent appeals to Hitler and Mussolini. The former consented to a four-Power Conference (England, France, Germany, Italy) at Munich,

where in the
course of a few hours a time-table for the
successive occupation
of the Sudeten districts was drawn up. The
Munich terms
were a trifle less severe in form than those of G-
odesberg, but
in substance the sacrifice was the same. The
country chiefly
concerned was informed of the decisions, and
peremptorily
bidden by her French allies and her English
friends to accept.
Deprived of the armed support on which she
counted, though
Russia declared her readiness-to fulfil her treaty
obligations,
she had no option but to yield. The coveted
territories, with
a quarter of the whole population of the State,
and the elaborate
mountain defences, passed into German hands
without a shot.
England attempted to soften the blow by a loan
often millions,